



WHEN REAL ESTATE SALES LAUNCHED IN THE EARLY 1980s, 75 people committed to purchase on just a handshake, with no money changing hands. Within six months, all 75 had sealed the deal and became the first members of Desert Highlands.

DESERT HIGHLANDS

Setting the standard in community, amenities, and architecture.

SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA: “I’ve wanted to design golf courses ever since I was a kid,” recalled Jack Nicklaus. “I suppose it came from the way I played the game. To find the proper way to play any hole, I began to ask myself what the architect tried to do. I’ve been interested in architectural ideas and problems ever since I can remember. I’d try to redesign any hole that didn’t make sense to me. It was fun and helped my game.”

“Like so many golfers, I became an armchair architect, constantly visualizing ways to improve a course,” said Nicklaus. “If I had to put a date on the beginning of my ‘second’ career as a golf course designer, it would be a few weeks before my first British Open victory in 1966.”

A PRIVATE COMMUNITY OF FIRSTS

Desert Highlands set the standard for private golf in Scottsdale in 1983. It hosted the original Skins Game and ranked as high as No. 25 on *Golf Digest’s* list of America’s 100 Greatest Courses.

“The club is special in my heart,” confessed Nicklaus. “My course is known for its wildlife and spectacular views of the Valley floor and Pinnacle Peak. The clubhouse [recognized by *Golf Magazine* as Third Best in the World] is amid a concentration of rock formations. In fact, you could say it is set in a forest of boulders.”

Member amenities also include a one-of-a-kind, four-acre, 18-hole, par 41 putting course; the 7,000 square-foot Pavilion Fitness Center; and 13 tennis courts with a combination of grass, clay, and hard surfaces.

“Our covenants, conditions, restrictions, and bylaws became a model for other exclusive, gated communities in the Southwest,” detailed Terra Waldron, VP/COO at Desert Highlands. “We have one Board controlling all aspects of the community—from golf, fitness, HOA, and security. This structure creates stability, good governance, and makes it easier to create a strategic plan. We have never had an assessment to fund an operational deficit. We are a financially conservative and solid club.”

DESERT HIGHLANDS MADE GOLF INDUSTRY HEADLINES BY BEING THE FIRST IN AMERICA to install an 18-hole professionally designed putting course. It became only the second putting course in the world, alongside the Himalaya Course at St. Andrews Golf Club in Scotland.

HITTING THE SWEET SPOT

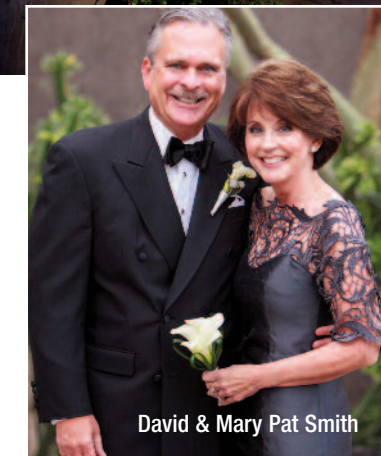
“We shopped most of the private communities along the Scottsdale corridor before selecting Desert Highlands,” said David Smith, member. “A golf course was an important deciding factor for me. It was a must have. I didn’t want to consider anything ‘inside the ropes’ that didn’t include golf.”

“Scottsdale has many fine private golf clubs,” explained David. “But, it definitely isn’t one size fits all. Several clubs have large memberships and multiple courses. To me, larger clubs feel impersonal. The cart staging area, during season, reminds me of walking Chicago’s Michigan Avenue when we lived in Illinois.”

“Desert Highlands is the sweet spot. It has a strong financial balance sheet, the right size membership, and an excellent practice facility to hone my game,” said David.

“I’m not a golfer. My criteria was more intangible,” responded Mary Pat Smith. “I remember thinking that I would feel comfortable and safe here.”

“There is a real cross section of members and I like the style of architecture—



David & Mary Pat Smith

with a blend of traditional and contemporary homes. The club is located at 10040 East Happy Valley Road. The street perfectly describes our community’s vibe,” smiled Mary Pat. “I can’t tell you how many times someone chuckles when I tell them our address!” ■

For more information on Desert Highlands, please visit DesertHighlandsScottsdale.com, or call (480) 419-3745.